

The Lord of the Rings

Ushing students into the practice of attentive
reading through the transformative world of Middle
Earth.





Welcome to How to Teach Lord of the Rings! In this course, you will learn how to guide students into a practice of attentive reading through the transformative world of Middle Earth.

Classical teacher, Jennifer Souza, has taught Lord of the Rings since 2012 to students in 7th - 12th grades. She has learned that The Lord of the Rings is one of the most accessible works for ushering students into the world of reading the great books well. The fundamental skills and mindset needed for profound encounters with the classics can be effectively cultivated by attentively reading The Lord of the Rings, a work that is enjoyable and transformative in its own right! This course will show you the way.

In this course, you will learn the basic concepts needed for teaching The Lord of the Rings, the background and context for Tolkien's famous work, take a guided tour through all three books, the characters, episodes, motifs, and questions, and learn a simple process for preparing, teaching, and reflecting on the journey through Middle Earth in an academic setting.

We learn best by example. We designed this course with that in mind. Through immersive lessons, teaching notes, student handouts, and other helpful resources, you will walk away confident and equipped to guide your students into this great, fair, and perilous realm.

Be sure to get a copy of The Lord of the Rings to get the most out of this course. [This is my favorite set!](#)

COURSE OUTLINE

Each lesson was recorded and available to you now within the course pages on the [Paideia Academics website](#).

Each lesson includes a lecture on the outlined topic, resources to support you in applying what you learn, and FAQs.

Session One

- The Role of the Student & The Teacher in Reading Literature Attentively
- An Intro to Tolkien, Fantasy, Fairie, and The Lord of the Rings

Session Two

- A Guided Tour through the World, Characters, Episodes, Questions, and Motifs of The Lord of the Rings
 - Books 1-2: The Fellowship of the Ring
 - Books 3-4: The Two Towers
 - Books 5-6: The Return of the King

Session Three

- Teacher Prep, Planning, Teaching, and Reflection
- The Student's Routine

COURSE DETAILS

This workbook is your primary guide through the course. Each session consists of a lecture, correlating workbook pages, and suggested resources for going deeper and teaching each book in your homeschool, school, or learning community. Please print this workbook out and read it over before the lectures begin to ensure an optimum experience.

Each Session's workbook pages offer a list of handouts that go along with that lecture, suggestions for resources to learn more, and space to take notes.

Downloads and handouts for each session can be found within the session lesson page. The lectures can be accessed on the lesson page as well.

If you have any questions throughout your time in this course, please email Jennifer Souza, the course instructor, at hello@paideiaacademics.com.

VACARE LECTION!!

May you and your students "Be Free for the Reading" (and the teaching)!

SESSION ONE

THE ROLE OF THE STUDENT & THE TEACHER IN READING LITERATURE ATTENTIVELY

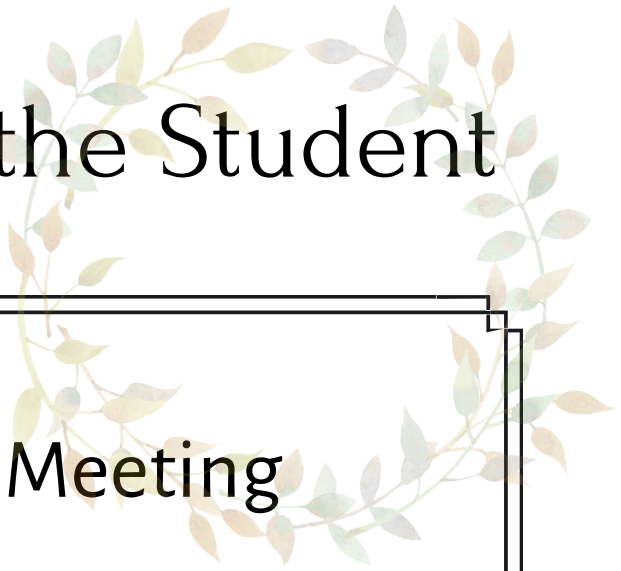
Handouts:

- Journey of the Student (p.4)
- Journey of the Teacher (p.5)
- The Journeys Combined (p.6)
- Teaching Literature Through the Realms (p.7-8)

Resources for Further Study

- Teaching with the Rhythms of Nature Self-Paced Course

The Journey of the Student



Playdate/First Meeting

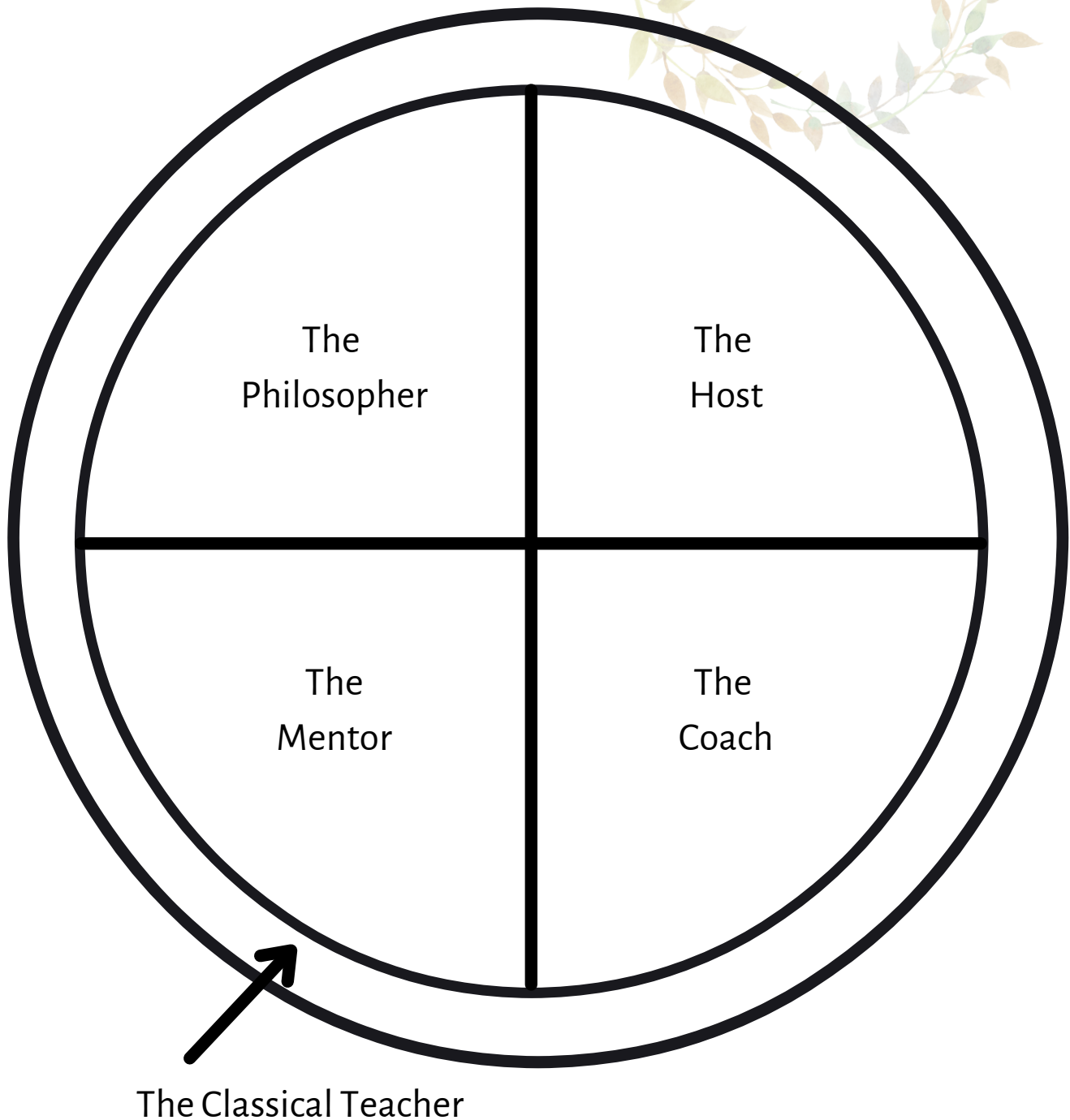


Developing Relationship

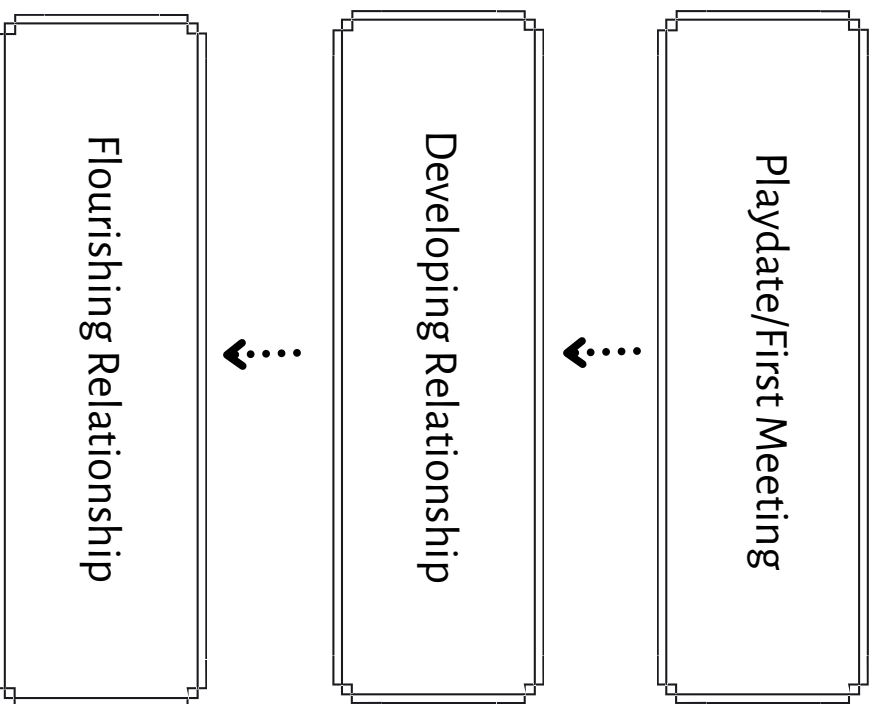


Flourishing Relationship

The Journey of the Teacher

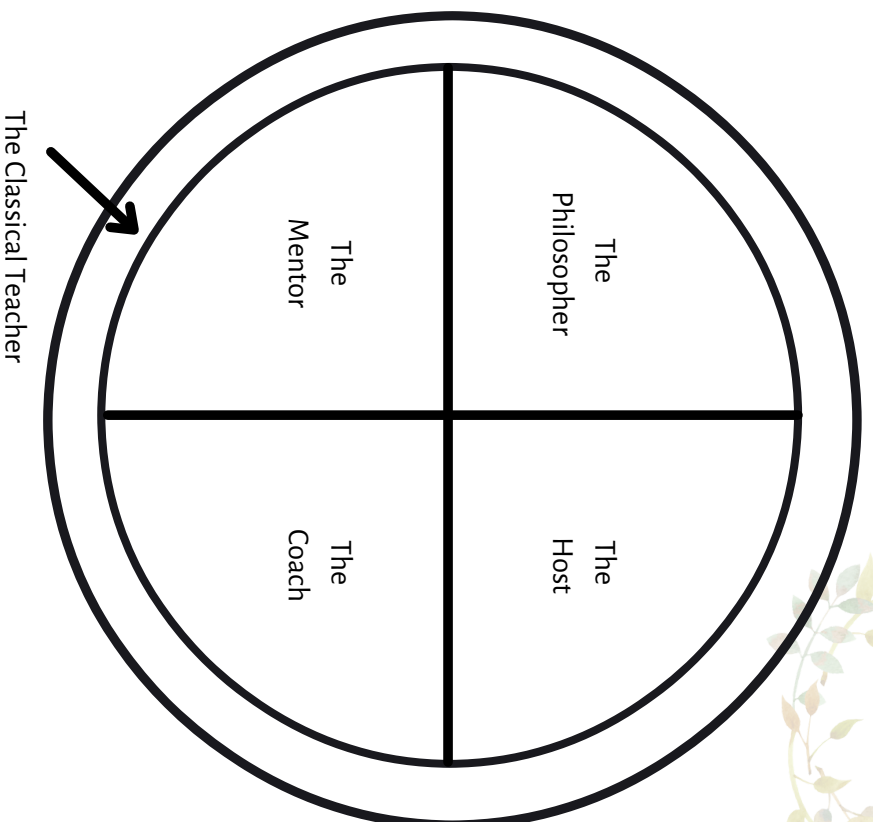


The Journey of the Student



The Journey of the Teacher

Teacher as Guide for the Student's Journey



Teaching Literature Through the Realms

✓ REALM #1: THE HOST

The host focuses their attention on the quality, beauty, and accessibility of the feast. When teaching literature as the host, you hold the container of hospitality for the teacher, student, and author. You are spreading the feast in a beautiful and accessible way. Here is what it looks like:

- Protects the learning environment so all scholars and authors are welcome.
- Invites rather than impose.
- Learns to notice when a student isn't familiar with a "food or tool" on the table and helps them become acquainted with it to make it accessible.
- Arranges content and lessons in appropriate portions and at an appropriate pace.
- Communicates what to expect.
- Prioritizes Beauty and Quality over Quantity and "Getting Through the Book"

✓ REALM #2: THE PHILOSOPHER

When teaching literature from the realm of the philosopher, you are leading the charge in the energetic disposition toward the text. You do not stand over the text but rather in it with your students. The philosopher focuses on guiding students to discover the truth. They do this by bringing students into the present dialectical moment. In other words, the philosopher holds the container of wonder and attention, where the discovery of truth and the cultivation of virtue is most likely. This is what that looks like:

- Model curiosity
- Model sustained attention
- Model awareness without judgment
- Co-Inquire with your Students
- Notice, wonder, and make connections aloud in front of your students.
- Redirect students back to the inquiry, world of the book, or question.
- Ask questions that invite and create a connection.

✓ REALM #3: THE MENTOR

When teaching literature from the realm of the mentor, you are concerned with providing students with the needed knowledge and noticing what may be standing in the way of them perceiving and experiencing the text as the author intended. The mentor focuses their attention on the content and opens it up for the student. In this, you are the midwife for, and sometimes the source of, the presentation of living ideas.

- Teaching within the tradition from which the content has been created.
- Shares generously through didactic instruction concerning the background and context needed to properly enter the work.



Teaching Literature Through the Realms

- Reading Aloud with proper emphasis.
- Studied dictation or tour of a quote or passage.
- Pointing out significant passages, imagery, motifs, details, character shifts, etc., in the story
- Discerns the difference between sharing that hijacks the student's journey vs. guides the students on a more successful journey
- Directs attention to the content rather than themselves or imposing ideas.
- Live in the questions and the content in front of your students.



REALM #4: THE COACH

When teaching literature from the realm of the coach, you are focused on coaching students in the skills and process of attentive reading. You are aware of the milestones they pass through on their journey to mastery and guide them to the next one. You notice obstacles and coach them through them. The coach helps students cultivate the discipline and habit of attentive reading.

- Teach the Introductory "Relationship Lesson" to give them a container for thinking about how they will read literature.
- Model attentive reading "aloud- in front of the students." In other words, externalize the internal process of attentive reading.
- Thoughtfully and patiently observes a student's process of attentive reading.
- Offer feedback in a clear, neutral, and encouraging way.



REALM #5: THE CLASSICAL TEACHER

When teaching literature from the point of view of the classical teacher, you access the wisdom and skills of all realms as the situation calls for it. Since cultivating the ability to move from realm to realm takes time and practice, the best thing you can do now is establishing a consistent planning and teaching routine that allows you to be grounded in the content and connected to the present moment. Here are a few suggestions for teaching literature specifically

- Give yourself time to read, dwell with, and think about the chapters before you teach them.
- Create a template for your teaching notes that reminds you of questions and prompts, the knowledge on form and content you want to be sure to share, and any notes about the skill you want to highlight in that class.
- As a reminder, write out student assignments on your teaching notes and ground yourself in what is coming next.
- Reflect on your teaching and write down what worked and what you would like to improve.
- Create a practice for yourself that cultivates attentiveness and mindfulness in yourself, like Prayer and Meditation, Yoga/Exercise, Nature walk, Visiting a museum or gallery, Lectio Divina, as a reading practice, etc.

SESSION ONE

AN INTRODUCTION TO TOLKIEN, FANTASY, FAIRIE,
& THE LORD OF THE RINGS

Handouts:

- Session one lecture slides
- LOTR Intro Guide Sheet

Resources for Further Study

- On Fairy Stories, by J.R.R. Tolkien
- PDF of AINULINDALĒ: The Music of the Ainur
- The Silmarillion, by J.R.R. Tolkien

SESSION ONE

AN INTRODUCTION TO TOLKIEN, FANTASY, FAIRIE,
& THE LORD OF THE RINGS

SESSION TWO

A GUIDED TOUR THROUGH BOOKS 1-2 OF THE LORD OF THE RINGS
THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING

Handouts:

- Session two lecture slides
- Book 1-2 Guide Sheet
- Note: It is helpful to have a copy of the book for following along

Resources for Further Study

- See Resources From Session One

SESSION TWO

A GUIDED TOUR THROUGH BOOKS 3-4 OF THE LORD OF THE RINGS THE TWO TOWERS

Handouts:

- Session two lecture slides
- Book 3-4 Guide Sheet
- Note: It is helpful to have a copy of the book for following along

Resources for Further Study

- See Resources From Session One

SESSION TWO

A GUIDED TOUR THROUGH BOOKS 5-6 OF THE LORD OF THE RINGS
THE RETURN OF THE KING

Handouts:

- Session two lecture slides
- Book 5-6 Guide Sheet
- Note: It is helpful to have a copy of the book for following along

Resources for Further Study

- See Resources From Session One

SESSION THREE

TEACHER PREP, PLANNING, TEACHING, AND REFLECTION & THE STUDENT'S ROUTINE

Handouts:

- Session Three Lecture Slides
- Suggested 36-Week Reading Schedule
- Suggested Weekly and Classtime Liturgy
- Student Reading Routine
- Intro to Reading Literature Lesson Plan

- Suggested Teacher Prep LOTR Guide
- Chapter Planning Template

Resources for Further Study

- See Resources From Sessions One & Two

SESSION THREE

TEACHER PREP, PLANNING, TEACHING, AND REFLECTION & THE STUDENT'S ROUTINE

RESOURCES

BOOKS & RESOURCES FOR TEACHING THE
LORD OF THE RINGS
(CLICKABLE LINKS)

On Middle Earth and The Lord of the Rings

- [The Lord of The Rings Book Set](#)
- [On Fairy Stories, by J.R.R. Tolkien](#)
- [PDF of AINULINDALĒ: The Music of the Ainur \(Within the Silmarillion\)](#)
- [The Silmarillion, by J.R.R. Tolkien](#)

Book and Chapter-specific resources included in the Book level guides and Presentation PDFs

Teaching Literature

- [An Experiment in Criticism, by C.S. Lewis](#) + parallel podcast episodes on [the Literary Life Podcast \(Literature\)](#)

Responding to Literature

- Know & Tell: The Art of Narration, by Karen Glass

Teaching the Classical Liberal Arts (comprehensive program)

- Teaching with the Rhythms of Nature



"VACARE LECTIONI"

"TO BE FREE FOR THE READING"